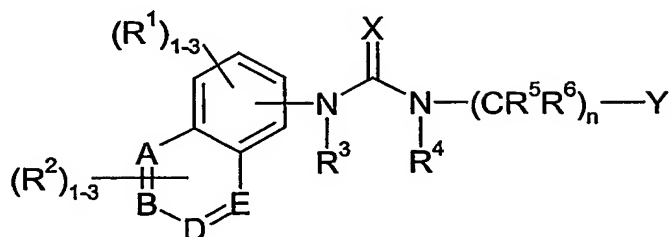


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

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wherein

A, B, D and E are each C or N with the proviso that one or more are N;

R¹ and R² are each independently hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C₁-6alkyl, C₂-6alkenyl, C₂-6alkynyl, haloC₁-6alkyl, hydroxyC₁-6alkyl, C₁-6alkoxy,

10 haloC₁-6alkoxy, hydroxyC₁-6alkoxy, C₃-7cycloalkyl, C₃-5cycloalkylC₁-4alkyl, NR⁷R⁸, carboxy, esterified carboxy, C₁-6alkyl substituted with a group selected from NR⁷R⁸, carboxy and esterified carboxy, or C₁-6alkoxy substituted with a group selected from NR⁷R⁸, carboxy and esterified carboxy;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently hydrogen, C₁-6alkyl, C₂-6alkenyl or C₂-6alkynyl;

15 R⁵ and R⁶ are, at each occurrence, independently hydrogen, C₁-6alkyl, C₂-6alkenyl, C₂-6alkynyl, C₁-6alkoxy, C₁-6acyloxy, carboxy, esterified carboxy, CONR⁷R⁸, SO₂R⁷, SO₂NR⁷R⁸, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, or C₁-6alkyl substituted with a group selected from hydroxy, C₁-6alkoxy, C₁-6acyloxy, carboxy, esterified carboxy, NR⁷R⁸, CONR⁷R⁸, SR⁷, SO₂R⁷, SO₂NR⁷R⁸, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl;

20 or R⁵ and R⁶ and the carbon atom to which they are attached together form a carbocyclic ring of 3 to 6 carbon atoms;

R⁷ and R⁸ are, at each occurrence, independently hydrogen, C₁-6alkyl, C₂-6alkenyl, C₂-6alkynyl, C₃-7cycloalkyl or fluoroC₁-6alkyl;

or R⁷ and R⁸ and the nitrogen atom to which they are attached together form a

25 heteroaliphatic ring of 4 to 7 ring atoms, optionally substituted by one or two groups selected from hydroxy or C₁-4alkoxy, which ring may optionally contain as one of the said ring atoms an oxygen or a sulfur atom, a group S(O) or S(O)₂, or a second nitrogen atom which will be part of a NH or NRᵃ moiety where Rᵃ is C₁-4alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy or C₁-4alkoxy;

X is an oxygen or sulfur atom or the group =NCN;
Y is an aryl, heteroaryl, carbocyclyl or fused-carbocyclyl group; and
n is either zero or an integer from 1 to 3;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, N-oxide or a prodrug thereof.

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2. A compound according to claim 1 in which X is O.
3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 in which R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen.
- 10 4. A compound according to claim 1, 2 or 3 in which B is nitrogen and A, D and E are carbon.
- 15 5. A compound according to any preceding claim in which Y is an aryl group selected from unsubstituted phenyl or naphthyl and phenyl or naphthyl substituted by one or two substituents selected from halogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, haloC₁₋₄alkyl, haloC₁₋₄alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, pyrazolyl, di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, phenoxy, -OCH₂O- and C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyl; or a heteroaryl group selected from pyridyl, thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl and pyrazolyl wherein each heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with one or two
20 substituents selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, haloC₁₋₄alkyl, haloC₁₋₄alkoxy, unsubstituted heteroaryl or phenyl which may be substituted by C₁₋₆alkyl or halogen; or a carbocyclyl group which is a C₅₋₇cycloalkyl radical that is unsubstituted or substituted by a phenyl ring; or a fused-carbocyclyl group which is a C₅₋₇cycloalkyl radical that is fused to a phenyl ring.
- 25 6. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₄alkyl or phenyl group.
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any
30 preceding claim or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof.
8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body by therapy.

9. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof for use in the manufacture of a medicament for treating diseases and conditions in which pain and/or inflammation predominates.
- 5
10. A method of treating a subject suffering from a disease or condition in which pain and/or inflammation predominates which comprises administering to that subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim
- 10 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof.